

XI.—On a Collection of Birds from Witu, British East Africa. By F. J. JACKSON, F.Z.S. With Notes by R. BOWDLER SHARPE, LL.D., F.Z.S.

THE collection here described was made by me during a short residence in Witu in May and June, 1891, and again in November of the same year. Dr. Bowdler Sharpe has added a few notes on some of the specimens.

[The collection contains examples of some interesting species, and I have thought it worth recording, as hitherto no one but Dr. Fischer appears to have collected birds in this district (*cf.* J. f. O. 1885, pp. 113–142).—R. B. S.]

1. LAMPROCOLIUS MELANOGASTER (Sw.).

Lamprocolius melanogaster (Swains.); Sharpe, *Ibis*, 1891, p. 242.

No. 9, ♂. Witu, May 5, 1891.—Iris bright orange-yellow, with an inner ring of yellow; feet and bill black.

No. 13. Witu, Nov. 17, 1891.

2. ORIOLUS NOTATUS.

Oriolus notatus Peters; Sharpe, *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* iii. p. 196; Reichen. *Vög. Deutsch-Ost-Afr.* p. 168, fig. 78 (1894); Shelley, *B. Africa*, i. p. 41 (1896).

No. 48. Witu, June 16, 1891.—Bill pale dull carmine; feet horn-blue; iris crimson.

[It must have been by a *lapsus calami* that Captain Shelley recorded the Oriole from Manda Island as *O. auratus*. The specimen was presented by Mr. Jackson to the British Museum, and is undoubtedly *O. notatus*.—R. B. S.]

3. ORIOLUS ROLLETI.

Oriolus rolleti Salvad. *Atti R. Accad. Torin.* vii. p. 151; Reichen. *Vög. Deutsch-Ost-Afr.* p. 168 (1894).

Oriolus larvatus (pt.), Sharpe, *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* iii. p. 217 (1877).

No. 2, ♂. Witu, June 20, 1891.—Iris bright crimson; bill dull carmine.

No. 47, juv. Witu, June 16, 1891.—Bill dull black; legs horn-blue; iris brown.

4. BUCHANGA ASSIMILIS.

Buchanga assimilis Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. iii. p. 247 (1877).

Dicrurus afer (Licht.); Reichen. Vög. Deutsch-Ost-Afr. p. 166 (1894); Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 47 (1896).
No. 62, ♀ juv. Witu, June 20, 1891.

5. PYROMELANA DIADEMATA.

Pyromelana diademata (F. & R.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 236 (1890); Reichen. Vög. Deutsch-Ost-Afr. p. 189 (1894); Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 25 (1896).
No. 40, ad. Witu, June 14, 1891.—Bill black; legs shrimp-brown, toes darker; iris brown.

6. PYROMELANA NIGRIVENTRIS.

Pyromelana nigriventris (Cass.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 230 (1890); Reichen. Vög. Deutsch-Ost-Afr. p. 189 (1894); Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 25 (1896).
Nos. 5, 7, ♂ ad. Witu, May 5, 1891.
Nos. 13, 26, 27, ♀ ad. Witu, May 8–19, 1891.—Iris brown; legs flesh-colour.

7. AMBLYOSPIZA UNICOLOR.

Amblyospiza unicolor (Fischer & Reichen.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 503 (1890); Reichen. Vög. Deutsch-Ost-Afr. p. 182, fig. 83 (1894); Shelley, B. Africa i. p. 33 (1896).
Nos. 21, 32, 33, 38, ♂ ad. et imm. Witu, May 12, 21, 1898.
—Bill and legs black; iris brown.

8. SPORÆGINTHUS SUBFLAVUS.

Sporæginthus subflavus (Vieill.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 324 (1890); Reichen. Vög. Deutsch-Ost-Afr. p. 188 (1894).
Estrellda subflava Reichen. J. f. O. 1892, p. 48; Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 30 (1896).
No. 20, ♂ ad. Witu, May 12, 1891.—Iris orange; bill crimson, dusky on the top of upper mandible; legs brownish flesh-colour.

9. UROBRACHYA NIGRONOTATA.

Urobrachya phœnicea (Heugl., pt.) ; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 225 (1890).

Urobrachya nigronotata Sharpe, Bull. B. O. Club, vii. p. vii (1897).

No. 3, ♂ ad. Witu, June 13, 1891.

[There seems to me to be some confusion about the species of *Urobrachya*, and the differences between them are not set forth in the 'Catalogue of Birds' so plainly as they might have been.

U. axillaris and *U. hildebrandti* (Sharpe, Cat. B. xiii. pp. 224, 225), if, indeed, the latter subspecies be really distinct, have the outer greater coverts, as well as the inner ones, black, with a narrow edging of cinnamon, whereas in *U. phœnicea* and *U. traversi* (which seems to me to be very doubtfully distinct from *U. phœnicea*) the outer greater coverts are entirely cinnamon. The bird from Witu has the outer greater coverts cinnamon, but with *broad black terminal spots*. It would be supposed that Shelley's *U. zanzibarica* (P. Z. S. 1881, p. 586) would be of this race, but on comparing the type specimen I find that it is not to be distinguished from *U. phœnicea*, though the Museum contains an example of *U. nigronotata* from Mombasa (*Wakefield*) and another from Lamu (*Kirk*).—R. B. S.]

10. PYROMELANA FLAMMICEPS.

Pyromelana flammiceps (Swains.) ; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 228 (1890) ; Reichen. Vög. Deutsch-Ost-Afr. p. 190, fig. 86 (1894) ; Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 25 (1896).

No. 15, ♂ ad. Witu, May 10, 1891.—Iris brown ; bill black ; legs dark flesh-colour.

No. 35, ♂ ad. Witu, May 21, 1891.

No. 36, ♀ ad. Witu, May 22, 1891.—Iris brown ; bill dusky brown, lower mandible paler ; legs pale shrimp-brown.

11. SYCOBROTUS KERSTENI.

Sycobrotus kersteni Finsch & Hartl. ; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 423 (1890) ; Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 37 (1896).

Symplectes kersteni Reichen. Vög. Deutsch-Ost-Afr. p. 178 (1894).

No. 10, ♂ ad. Witu, May 6, 1891.

Nos. 30, 31, ♂ ♀ ad. Witu, May 20, 1891.

12. *HYPHANTORNIS BOJERI*.

Hyphantornis bojeri Finsch & Hartl.; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 448 (1890).

Ploceus bojeri Reichen. Vög. Deutsch-Ost-Afr. p. 181, fig. 82 (1894).

No. 16, ♂ ad. Witu, May 10, 1891.—Bill black; legs dark flesh-colour; iris brown.

13. *HYPHANTORNIS NIGRICEPS*.

Hyphantornis nigriceps Layard; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 456 (1890); Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 40 (1896).

Ploceus nigriceps Reichen. J. f. O. 1892, p. 43 (Ikuru Isl.); id. Vög. Deutsch-Ost-Afr. p. 181 (1894).

No. 19, ♂ juv. Witu, May 11, 1891.

No. 29, ♂ ad. Witu, May 20, 1891.

Nos. 37, 39, ♂ ad. Witu, May 22, 1891.—Bill black; legs pale shrimp-brown; iris pale crimson or orange-red. Breeding in high trees.

14. *MACRONYX CROCEUS*.

Macronyx croceus (Vieill.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. x. p. 626 (1885); id. Ibis, 1891, p. 589; Reichen. Vög. Deutsch-Ost-Afr. p. 199, fig. 90 (1894); Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 13 (1896).

No. 6, ♀ ad. Witu, May 5, 1891.—Legs dark flesh-colour.

15. *TMETOTHYLACUS TENELLUS*.

Tmetothylacus tenellus (Cab.); Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 13 (1896).

Macronyx tenellus Reichen. Vög. Deutsch-Ost-Afr. p. 200 (1894).

Nos. 41, ad.; 42 ♀ imm. Witu, June 14, 1891.—Iris brown; upper mandible black, lower one slaty blue; legs dark fleshy brown.

16. ANTHOTHREPTES HYPODILA.

Anthothreptes hypodila (Jard.) ; Reichen. Vög. Deutsch-Ost-Afr. p. 210 (1894) ; Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 6 (1896).

Anthodiæta hypodila Shelley, Monogr. Nectar. p. 345, pl. iii. figs. 1, 2.

Nos. 18, 23, 24, ♂ ♀ ad. Witu, May 11-14, 1891.—Breeding.
Bill and legs black ; iris brown.

17. CINNYRIS BRADSHAWI Sharpe, sp. n.

No. 55, ♂ ad. Witu, June 16, 1891.

[This seems to be a small form of *C. amethystina*, and has metallic purplish upper tail-coverts. It is closely allied to *C. deminuta* of Angola, and has even a smaller bill than that race. The general colour of the plumage is velvety brown, not black, as in *C. amethystina*. I find a second specimen in the British Museum from the Zambesi, collected by the late Dr. Bradshaw, an excellent field-naturalist, who died at his post on the Orange River, the natural history of which district he was engaged in studying at the time of his death. I have named the species after him.—R. B. S.]

18. CINNYRIS KIRKI.

Cinnyris kirki Shelley, Monogr. Nectar. p. 273, pl. 85 ; Sharpe, Ibis, 1891, p. 592 ; Reichen. Voy. Deutsch-Ost-Afr. p. 210 (1894).

Chalchomitra kirki Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 5 (1896).

No. 4, ♂ ad. Witu, May 4, 1891.

19. CINNYRIS RAGAZZII.

Cinnyris ragazzi Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. (2) vi. p. 247 (1888).

Cyanomitra ragazzi Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 5 (1896).

No. 25, ♂. Witu, May 14, 1891.—Legs brown.

[Compared with a typical specimen from Shoa in the British Museum.—R. B. S.]

20. LANIARIUS APPROXIMANS.

Laniarius approximans (Cab.) ; Reichen. Vög. Deutsch-Ost-Afr. p. 178 (1894).

Malaconotus approximans Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 57 (1896).

No. 43, ♀ ad. Witu, June 15, 1891.—Iris bright yellow ; bill black ; legs pale horn-blue.

21. *DRYOSCOPIUS SALINÆ*.

Laniarius salinæ Finsch & Hartl. Vög. Ost-Afr. p. 349.

No. 8, ♂ ad. Witu, May 5, 1891.—Bill black ; legs slate-colour ; iris crimson.

No. 60, ♂ ad. Witu, June 19, 1891.—Bill black ; legs horn-blue ; iris pale crimson.

22. *TELEPHONUS JAMESI*.

Telephonus jamesi Shelley, Sharpe, Ibis, 1891, p. 601 ; Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 56 (1896).

No. 50, ♀ ad. Witu, June 18, 1891.—Iris brown, with nine or ten white specks round the inner edge ; legs horn-blue ; bill black.

23. *PRINIA MYSTACEA*.

Prinia mystacea Rüpp. ; Sharpe, Ibis, 1892, p. 155 ; Reichen. J. f. O. 1892, p. 57 [Mengo, Uganda] ; id. Vög. Deutsch-Ost-Afr. p. 225 (1896) ; Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 73 (1896).

No. 17. ♂ ad. Witu, May 10, 1891.

No. 28, ♂ ad. Witu, May 20, 1891.—Iris pale brown ; bill black ; legs flesh-colour.

24. *CISTICOLA SUBRUFICAPILLA*.

Cisticola subruficapilla (Smith) ; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. vii. p. 283 (1883) ; Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 74 (1896).

No. 14, ♂ ad. Witu, May 9, 1891.—Iris bright brown ; legs flesh-colour. Breeds in May. Nest placed in a tuft of grass ; made of fine grass. Eggs three to four.

25. *CAMAROPTERA BREVICAUDATA*.

Camaroptera brevicaudata (Rüpp.) ; Sharpe, Ibis, 1892, p. 158 ; Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 69 (1896).

No. 52, ♂ ad. Witu, June 18, 1891.—Iris pale brown ; bill black ; legs brownish flesh-colour.

26. *TURDUS TEPHRONOTUS*.

Turdus tephronotus Cab.; Seebohm, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. v. p. 226 (1881); Reichen. Vög. Deutsch-Ost-Afr. p. 233, fig. 103 (1894); Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 88 (1896).

No. 44, ♂ ad. Witu, June 15, 1891.—Bare skin round eye dull yellow; bill and legs orange.

No. 45, ♀ ad. Witu, June 15, 1891.

27. *XENOCICHLA PLACIDA*.

Xenocichla placida Shelley, P. Z. S. 1889, p. 363.

Phyllostrephus placidus Reichen. Vög. Deutsch-Ost-Afr. p. 206 (1894).

Criniger placidus Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 63 (1896).

a, ad. Witu.

28. *CHLOROCICHLA MOMBASÆ*.

Chlorocichla mombasæ Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 64 (1896).

a, ad. Witu.

29. *BRADYORNIS PALLIDUS*.

Bradyornis pallidus (von Müller); Reichen. Vög. Deutsch-Ost-Afr. p. 151 (1894); Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 93 (1896).

a, ♂ ad. Witu.

30. *MUSCICAPA CÆRULESCENS*.

Muscicapa cærulescens Hartl.; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. iv. p. 154; Reichen. Vög. Deutsch-Ost-Afr. p. 152 (1894); Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 94 (1896).

No. 10, ♂ imm. Witu, Nov. 15, 1891.—Iris brown; bill dark horn-blue, lower mandible paler; legs dark horn-blue.

No. 12, ♀ ad. Witu, Nov. 16, 1891.

31. *CHLOROPETA MASSAICA*.

Chloropeta massaica Fischer & Reichen. J. f. O. 1884, p. 54; Reichen. Vög. Deutsch-Ost-Afr. p. 149 (1894); Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 96 (1896).

a, ♂ ad. Witu, Nov. 4, 1897.—Bill dusky flesh-colour, darker above; legs yellowish flesh-colour; iris brown.

32. *HIRUNDO SENEGALENSIS*.

Hirundo senegalensis Linn.; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus.

x. p. 168 (1885); id. Ibis, 1892, p. 305; Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 103 (1896).

No. 40, ♂ ad. Witu, June 15, 1891.

[This specimen must be referred to *H. senegalensis* as it has an almost uniform tail, although on the outer feather there can be detected a faint reddish spot.—R. B. S.]

33. MELANOBUCCO MELANOPTERUS.

Melanobucco melanopterus (Peters); Shelley, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xix. p. 19 (1891); id. B. Africa, i. p. 126 (1896).

No. 3, ♀ ad. Witu, May 4, 1891.—Bill whitish horn-colour.

34. TURACUS FISCHERI.

Turacus fischeri (Reichen.); Shelley, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xix. p. 443 (1891); Reichen. Vög. Deutsch-Ost-Afr. p. 103 (1894); Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 119 (1896).

No. 4, ♀ ad. Witu, June 13, 1891.

35. CUCULUS GULARIS.

Cuculus gularis Steph.; Shelley, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xix. p. 244 (1891); Reichen. Vög. Deutsch-Ost-Afr. p. 110, fig. 50 (1894); Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 123 (1896).

No. 34, ♂ ad. Witu, May 21, 1891.—Iris brown; eyelids lemon-yellow; base of bill yellow, tip black; legs yellow.

36. CENTROPUS SUPERCILIOSUS.

Centropus superciliosus H. & E.; Shelley, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xix. p. 363 (1891); Reichen. J. f. O. 1892, p. 22 (Bukoba); id. Vög. Deutsch-Ost-Afr. p. 107, fig. 49 (1894); Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 123 (1896).

No. 12, ♂ ad. Witu, May 6, 1891.—Iris crimson; bill black; legs pale slate.

37. CENTROPUS NIGRORUFUS.

Centropus nigrorufus (Cuv.); Shelley, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xix. p. 357 (1891); Reichen. Vög. Deutsch-Ost-Afr. p. 108 (1894); Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 122 (1896).

No. 11, ♀ ad. Witu, May 6, 1891.—Iris brown; bill black; legs dark slate.

38. HALCYON SEMICÆRULEUS.

Halcyon semicæruleus (Forskål); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xvii. p. 232 (1892); Reichen. Vög. Deutsch-Ost-Afr. p. 132 (1894); Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 117 (1896).

No. 46, ♂ ad. Witu, June 16, 1891.—Iris brown; legs coral-red; bill coral-red.

No. 51, ♂ ad. Witu, June 18, 1891.

39. BYCANISTES BUCCINATOR.

Bycanistes buccinator (Temm.); Ogilvie Grant, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xvii. p. 421 (1892); Reichen. Vög. Deutsch-Ost-Afr. p. 127 (1894); Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 113 (1896).

Nos. 5, 6, ♂ ad. Witu, Nov. 12, 1891.—Skin round the eye purplish.

40. TACHORNIS PARVA.

Tachornis parva (Licht.); Hartert, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xvi. p. 463 (1892); Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 106 (1896).

No. 49, juv. Witu.

41. STRIX FLAMMEA.

Strix flammea Linn.; Sharpe, Ibis, 1892, p. 535; Reichen. Vög. Deutsch-Ost-Afr. p. 98 (1894); Shelley, B. Africa, p. 141 (1896).

No. 9, ♂ ad. Witu, Nov. 15, 1891.

42. ACCIPITER MINULLUS.

Accipiter minullus (Daud.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. i. p. 140 (1874); Reichen. Vög. Deutsch-Ost-Afr. p. 88 (1894); Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 152 (1896).

No. 1, ♂ juv. Witu, May 3, 1891. Iris bright yellow; cere yellow; bill black; legs yellow, claws black.

43. ARDETTA MINUTA.

Ardeetta minuta (Linn.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxvi. p. 222; Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 158 (1896).

No. 22, ♂ ad. Witu, May 12, 1891.—Iris orange; upper mandible dusky, lower one greenish yellow; legs dull greenish yellow.

[This specimen seems to me to be undoubtedly the Little Bittern of Europe, and not *A. podicipes*.—R. B. S.]

44. LEPTERODIUS GULARIS.

Lepterodius gularis (Bosc); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxvi. p. 114.

Herodias gularis Reichen. Vög. Deutsch-Ost-Afr. p. 66 (1894).

Ardea gularis Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 157 (1896).
a, ad. Witu.

45. PTERNISTES HUMBOLDTI.

Pternistes humboldti Peters; Ogilvie Grant, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxii. p. 176; Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 179 (1896).

No. 1, ♂ ad. Witu, June 28, 1891.—Iris brown; legs bright coral-red; bill, etc., dull dark red.

XII.—*Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club.*

Nos. XLVII. & XLVIII.

No. XLVII. (October 31st, 1897.)

THE forty-sixth meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 20th of October, 1897. *Chairman*: PHILIP CROWLEY, Esq. Thirty-four Members and ten guests were present.

Mr. H. L. POPHAM made some remarks on his recent journey to the Yenesei, and exhibited a clutch of four eggs of the Curlew Sandpiper (*Tringa subarquata*) which he had taken on an island in the Yenesei in July last, when he shot the female bird from the nest. These were the first authentic eggs of this bird on record.

Mr. H. J. PEARSON and Colonel FEILDEN gave a brief account of their expedition to Novaya Zemlya during the past summer. Mr. Pearson exhibited a series of clutches of the eggs of the Little Stint (*Tringa minuta*), as well as some beautiful photographs of nests and eggs of the various birds observed on the voyage. The narrative of the trip was related by Colonel Feilden, and was rendered specially interesting by the photographs taken and exhibited by Mr. Pearson.